



FSU-NEW LANDS: Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to prevail over primary spring grain-producing areas of north-central Kazakhstan, with significant precipitation (10 mm or more) confined to spotty locations. A warming trend occurred during the week, with maximum temperatures ranging from 30 to 35 degrees C, accelerating crop development. In Russia, showers (8-25 mm or more) spread from the Urals eastward into Eastern Siberia, favoring spring grains in the filling stage. In the Altay Kray region of Western Siberia, a heat wave early in the week was followed by widespread showers and cooler weather at week's end, improving crop conditions. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 3 degrees C above normal in central Kazakhstan and western areas in Russia, and 3 to 5 degrees C above normal in eastern Kazakhstan and eastern areas in Russia. In July, weather conditions were mixed for crop development in most of Russia and Kazakhstan. A drying trend developed in major spring grain-producing areas of north-central Kazakhstan and Western Siberia, Russia during the month, lowering soil moisture reserves. In contrast, near- to above-normal precipitation favored spring grains in western Kazakhstan and the Urals region of Russia.